

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Czechoslovakia	REPORT	
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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
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1. A realignment of the Czech metal industry is taking place which reflects a basic change in military planning. The manufacture of all boiler plate, armor plate, heavy machinery and basic items (sic) which are the foundation of a military organization based upon tanks, artillery and infantry forces is decreasing or being stopped entirely. The basic plan for the metal industry in 1955 emphasizes no large quantitative increase in the production of steel, but does call for improvements in quality of the steels produced. The main items presently sought by Czechoslovakia abroad are the rare minerals such as germanium, titanium, ferroboron and tantanobium (sic), all of which are used in the manufacture of jet and rocket engines. The Czechs are also seeking to purchase all types of light, high-heat-resistant alloys.

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2. Another indication of the change in planning is the fact that the Czechs are now willing to deliver ship plates, boiler plates, and sheet steel to Western countries against dollar exchange or food deliveries. Offers of the above have already been made [redacted] and they will also be made [redacted] in the forthcoming trade discussions.

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